

A Walk Through
HISTORIC MOMENCE



Est. 1834



Historic Sites | Memorials | Markers

1. RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM - 691 N. Dixie Highway



This building served as a depot from 1890 to 1950's, and served the Chicago, Indiana and Southern Railroad and the New York Central Lines. Excursions from towns west of Kankakee to St. Joseph, Michigan typically cost \$1-\$2. It has been fully restored and currently houses permanent displays of railroad artifacts and military memorabilia and photos of Momence area veterans.

2. REX ROWE MEMORIAL - 691 N. Dixie Highway



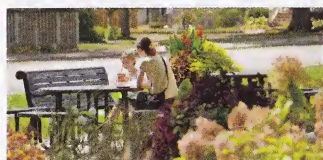
Rex Rowe entered the Army in January 1942, taking his basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas. After completion he was sent overseas in July of 1942. On September 19, 1944 Rex was wounded and two days later, he was taken prisoner by the Germans. The POW camp was 30 miles from Berlin. Liberated by the Russians on January 30, 1945, Rex walked across Poland and sailed from Odessa, Russia on a British ship coming home to America. Rex later served as Mayor of Momence.

3. MT. AIRY LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE - 125 W. 5th Street



The "Little Red Schoolhouse", also known as Mt. Airy was built in 1853. It was moved to 125 W. 2nd Street and first dedicated November 1983, "to the many women who taught in these less than ideal conditions". Restoration of this one-room school house is completed and furnished with genuine artifacts and memorabilia.

4. MOMENCE LIONS PARK - 4th. Street and Dixie Highway



From the early 1870s to 2015 Lion's Park was the site of three Momence Public Schools: Union (Central) School, built in 1871, New Central School 1915, and Range School 1955. The land was initially owned by Slocum Wilber, a seed farmer.

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5. CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS' MONUMENT - 4th Street and Dixie Highway



The 16 ft. monument on a concrete base represents a volunteer soldier at a parade rest, to honor the many men who served with the 42nd, 79th and 113th Illinois Infantry and the Illinois 47th Calvary during the Civil War, 1861 – 1865. It was with the determination of the Women's Relief Corps the statue was erected on the front lawn of the old Central School. It was dedicated by Illinois Governor Charles Deneen on July 5, 1909. The statue is presently located in the beautiful Momence Lions Club Park and sits just a few feet southwest of its original placement.

6. EARL D. SCHOEFFNER FARM MUSEUM - 105 E. Second Street



The west wall of the Wennerholm Livery and Garage was preserved in 2014. The Earl D. Schoeffner Memorial Building was constructed and dedicated in 2015. The Schoeffner Farm Museum, a conference room, and the Momence Township Offices occupy the building.

7. GRAHAM HISTORIC HOUSE & MUSEUM - 117 N. Dixie Highway



This unique property, built in 1869, was purchased by the City of Momence in 1973. The house was destined to be demolished until members of the Momence Women's Club proposed a plan to preserve the house. Its restoration, between January 2013 and November 2014, was made possible by the generosity of the Van Drunen Family.

DID YOU KNOW:

- The Fire House Café Building at 28 N. Dixie Highway was originally a three-story building built in 1868 by Edwin Kendall. In 1914 the third story was removed and a new front installed.
- The streets Deerson, Clark, Keyser, Chatfield, Wilber and Parish on the east side in Momence are named after old settlers of Momence?

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8 – MAIN STREET BUILDING - 103 N. Dixie Highway



This Classical Revival bank building of Ohio pressed brick and Indiana limestone was built for the First National Bank of Momence and was considered by the bankers at the time as one of Illinois' most substantial country banks. Built in 1906, the bank occupied the first floor, and various professional offices occupied the second floor over the years. The banks closed during the Great Depression. 3 bank buildings in downtown Momence were featured in the 2002 film, "Road to Perdition" starring Tom Hanks & Paul Newman.

9 - MOMENCE CITY HALL - 29 N. Dixie Highway/105 W. Washington Street



Momence City Hall, located in both the 1914 Parish Bank and the 1910 Post Office, was gifted to the City from Centru Bank in 2006. The Parish Bank lobby features an early 20th Century stained glass dome. The 1910 Post Office was renovated in 2015 and is used for City Hall offices.

10 – DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT - Start – Pine St. & 2nd St, East to Locust St., South to River St. – West to Pine St., back North to Pine & 2nd St.



Momence's historic district was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006 due to efforts of Main Street Momence. It was recognized for the wide variety of architectural styles, the use of enameled brick manufactured by the Tiffany Brick Co., and the quality of several key buildings.

11 - EDWARD CHIPMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - 126 N. Locust Street



Completed in 1912, the beautiful red brick building, trimmed with Bedford Stone, were designed by architect Charles Danforth Henry and constructed by E.A. Barsolou. Edward Chipman, prominent local farmer and banker, willed funds for construction of the library which subsequently was named in his honor.

MOMENCE HERITAGE DAY

Celebrating our unique history, tradition & culture



HISTORICAL SITES

1. Railroad Depot Museum
2. Rex Rowe Memorial
3. Mt. Airy Little Red Schoolhouse
4. Momence Lion's Park
5. Civil War Soldiers' Monument
6. Earl D. Schoeffner Farm Museum
7. Graham Historic House and Museum
8. Main Street Momence
9. Momence City Hall
10. Downtown Historic District
11. Edward Chipman Public Library
12. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
13. St. Patrick's Catholic Church
14. Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto
15. Momence High School
16. Kasler Veterans Memorial Park
17. Admiral Boorda Memorial
18. Conrad Park Pioneer Cabin
19. Momence Island Park
20. Cranky Mike's Gourmet Popcorn

MARKERS

21. Dixie Highway Interpretive Sign
22. Hubbard Trail Marker
23. Hess Family Pioneer Marker
24. Vincennes Trail 179 Mile-Stone Marker

CEMETERIES

Momence Cemetery
St. Patrick's Cemetery
Mt. Airy Cemetery
Nichols Cemetery
Shrontz Cemetery

OTHER

-  Police Station
 Fire Station
 Post Office

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12 - EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - 123 E. Second Street



The Church of the Good Shepherd officially began with the establishment of a Sunday School on August 18, 1867. Early on, it was called the "Pond Lily Church". Plans for a church building were initiated in 1870, with a Chapel completed in 1876, and the church as it stands today constructed in 1882. A highpoint of any tour of the church are the "Needlepoint Kneelers" created by members of the congregation over the years.

The church has long been a part of the community over the years, serving Momence families including Astle, Sharkey, Wickstrom, Boudreau, Gibson, Hess, Porter and hundreds more.

13 - ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - 119 Market Street



St. Patrick Catholic Church in Momence began in 1859 with Mass being said in family homes. The parish was a mission of St. George and St. Anne at different times. The first frame church was built in 1862. The present brick church was built in 1915. In 1980 the interior of the church was completely renovated. In 1906, the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary came to build St. Patrick Academy. For many years it was a boarding school for children in elementary and high school. The sisters taught there until 1972. In 1986 with the Academy no longer being used, it was demolished. Today

only the Church building, the old school gymnasium, and the beautiful Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto remain, and all are in constant use.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Before the Central House Hotel at 34 N. Dixie Highway was built in 1882 it was the location of a three-story red brick lodging house and saloon that burned down.
- 1918 gangster Baby Face Nelson attended St. Patrick's Academy boarding school.
- In 1914 Bob's Resort located along the Kankakee River at Momence was one of the leading resorts in this section of the state.

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14. **OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO** - 400 W. Second Street



Constructed in 1926 by St. Patrick Parish Church members. Visitors to the Grotto experience peace and solitude within this quiet area of Momence.

15. **MOMENCE HIGH SCHOOL** - 101 N. Franklin Street



The Momence High School was built in 1936 with a government work program to help create jobs. Its stately architecture and beautiful design make it a must see on any tour of historic Momence.

16. **KASLER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK** - 801 W. Second Street



The 50-foot diameter memorial was dedicated on September 15, 2007, honoring all Momence-area veterans. Five flags representing each branch of the military are flown constantly. At the center of the memorial is a life-sized bronze statue of Air Force Colonel Jim Kasler of Momence, the only three-time recipient of the Air Force Cross, the second highest award for wartime valor. Over 350 veteran's plaques are displayed at the park. The

memorial was placed near the schools to enable the Momence youth to learn about and remember the sacrifices of the hundreds of men and women from their community who served our nation.

17. **ADMIRAL BOORDA MEMORIAL** - Mill St. – Entrance to Island Park



The Memorial to Admiral Boorda is a beautiful feature of Conrad Park. Admiral J. Michael Boorda was CNO of the US Navy from 1994-1996 and a former resident of Momence. Artist Ed McCullough was commissioned by classmates and friends to design and sculpt this stainless-steel sculpture which was dedicated in November 2000.

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18. **CONRAD PARK PIONEER CABIN** - Mill St. – Entrance to Island Park



The former Conrad Bakery once stood on this parkland, which was generously donated by Merlin and Donna Karlock to the City of Momence. The visionary local teacher and historian, Kay Hess, led a group of volunteers to build a replica of a log cabin in memory of the men and women who settled this area. This Pioneer Log Cabin was dedicated during Momence's Sesquicentennial, 1983.

19. **MOMENCE ISLAND PARK** - 79 Mill Street



Momence's Island Park has been a leisure destination since the mid 1800s. Stories and photos that can be viewed in area Museums and businesses show a wide range of activities on the Island; and some of those festivals and many special events continue to happen annually. Thousands of people cross the beautiful foot bridge every year to enjoy Momence's Island Park, still home to many varied activities and events or for the peaceful viewing of the many different species of plants and animals along the banks of both sides of Island Park.

20. **CRANKY MIKE'S GOURMET POPCORN** - 227 Gladiolus Street



Cranky Mike's Gourmet Popcorn is located in what was originally "Our Savior Lutheran Church", built by Danish Lutherans in 1897. The Lutherans occupied the church until it was nearly destroyed by fire in 1934. The church, an historic landmark, has now been completely restored.

MARKERS



21. DIXIE HIGHWAY
INTERPRETIVE SIGN - Corner
of W. River and Dixie Highway



23. HESS FAMILY PIONEER
MARKER - 14570 E. State Rte. 114



22. HUBBARD TAIL MARKER
2680 N. State Rte. 1-17



24. VINCENNES TRAIL 179-MILE-
STONE MARKER - 4815 N.
Vincennes Trail



CEMETERIES

- Momence Cemetery - 10430 E. 4000 Rd.
- St. Patrick Cemetery - 10590 E. 4000 Rd.
- Mount Airy Cemetery - 1740 N. 1000 E Rd.
- Nichols Cemetery - 12750 Six Mile Grove
- Shrontz Cemetery - 12780 E. State Rt. 114

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LEARN MORE ONLINE!

Railroad Depot Museum • 815-932-5794

<http://visitmomencemuseums.com/depot.html>

Mt. Airy Little Red School House • 815-932-5794

<http://momencehistoricalhouse.com/schoolhouse.aspx>

Earl D. Schoeffner Farm Museum • 815-450-6079

<http://momencefarmmuseum.org/>

Graham Historic House and Museum • 815-472-6601

<http://www.momencehistoricalhouse.com/>

Main Street Momence • 815-472-3861

<http://mainstreetmomence.com/>

Momence City Hall • 815-472-2001

<http://cityofmomence.com/cityHall.aspx>

Edward Chipman Public Library • 815-472-2581

<http://momencelibrary.org/>

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd • 815-472-4625

St. Patrick's Catholic Church • 815-472-2864

Momence High School • 815-472-6477

<http://www.momence.k12.il.us/>

Conrad Park Pioneer Cabin • 815-954-4216

<http://visitmomencemuseums.com/pioneercabin.html>

Momence Island Park • 815-472-2670

<http://www.momenceparkdistrict.org/>



**Momence Chamber
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Building bridges for community growth



Van Drunen Farms